

at least one of said first and second primary layer regions includes a plurality of sublayers;

whereip

said absorbent core has a dry thickness of not more than about 6 mm, and a minimum crotch width of not more than about 10 cm.

- 3. (amended) An article as recited in claim 1, wherein said article is configured for use by an adult, and wherein said absorbent core has a minimum crotch width of not more than about 14 cm.
- 23. (amended) An absorbent article, comprising:
 - a backsheet layer;
 - a substantially liquid permeable topsheet layer;
- an absorbent composite structure sandwiched between said backsheet and topsheet layers, said absorbent composite including an absorbent core having a first primary layer region and at least a second primary layer region;
- at least one of said first and second primary layer regions having a Liquid Wicking Value of at least about 38%; and
- at least one of said first and second primary layer regions includes a plurality of sublayers; wherein

said first primary layer region includes a first superabsorbent having a first Tau value; said second primary layer region includes a second superabsorbent having a second Tau value; and said first Tau value is greater than said second Tau value.

Remarks

The claims have been amended to expedite the prosecution of the present application. A **Version**Of Claims With Markings To Show Changes Made is enclosed and made a part hereof.

Claims 1, 4 and 6-8 have been rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). The rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons set forth in Applicants' **Amendment -1** dated December 5, 2000.